IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 14 – 16 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 1 – 13, 17 – 25, and 27 – 30 have been amended.

1. (currently amended) A method for configuring a headless device, comprising:

sending, by a self-initiated configuration mechanism in [[a]] the headless device, a configure service request to a configuration service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration specification corresponding to the headless device;

~~returning, by~~ receiving from the configuration service mechanism, the configuration specification to the self-initiated configuration mechanism; and

~~configure~~ configuring, by the self-initiated configuration mechanism, the headless device according to the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ including:

registering the headless device, prior to the sending, with the configuration service mechanism using a device identification of the headless device.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the registering ~~comprises~~ includes:

receiving, by the configuration service mechanism from a configuration specification set-up mechanism, a request to set up the configuration specification of the headless device, the request including the device identification;

recording the device identification of the headless device to register the headless device; and

storing the configuration specification of the headless device.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the sending ~~comprises~~ includes:

requesting a routable address from a DHCP server~~, if an address for a server, which manages allocation of routable addresses across network, can be retrieved from the self-initiated configuration mechanism, a routable address from the server~~;

selecting, if the routable address ~~for the server~~ can not be retrieved from the ~~self-initiated configuration mechanism~~ DHCP server, [[a]] an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in ~~the self-initiated configuration mechanism~~ an alternative routable address storage in the headless device; and

requesting the configuration ~~configuration~~ from the configuration service mechanism using the device identification, that is to be used to identify the configuration specification, and the routable address or the alternative routable address, to where the configuration specification of the headless device is to be returned.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the returning ~~comprises~~ includes:

receiving the configuration service request with the device identification and the routable address or the alternative routable address;

retrieving the configuration specification based on the device identification; and

sending the configuration specification, retrieved by the retrieving, to the routable

address or the alternative routable address.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, further ~~comprising~~ including:

receiving a request to update the existing configuration specification of a headless device, the request including a device identification of the headless device; and

updating the existing configuration specification of the headless device according to the request to generate updated configuration specification; and

replacing the existing configuration specification with the updated configuration specification.

7. (currently amended) A method for a self-initiated configuration mechanism, comprising:

determining a routable address;

requesting, from a headless device, a configuration service mechanism to retrieve a configuration specification of [[a]] the headless device[[,]] ~~in which the self-initiated configuration mechanism resides~~, using a device identification of the headless device, and to send the configuration specification to the routable address;

receiving the configuration specification~~, retrieved using a device identification and sent from the configuration service mechanism [[to]]~~ at the routable address of the headless device; and

configuring the headless device according to the configuration specification.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the determining ~~comprises~~ includes:

requesting~~, if an address of a server, which manages allocation of routable addresses, can be retrieved from the self-initiated configuration mechanism, the routable address from the server~~ the routable address from a DHCP server; and

selecting, if the address ~~for the server~~ can not be retrieved from ~~the self-initiated configuration mechanism~~ the DHCP server, [[the]] an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in ~~the self-initiated configuration mechanism~~ an alternative routable address storage.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the receiving ~~comprises~~ includes:

activating a time out mechanism that enforces a time out control according to a time out condition, the time out condition defining a length of time;

if the configuration specification is not received within the length of time and if the alternative routable address is determined by the selecting, returning to the selecting; and

if the configuration specification is not received within the length of time and if the routable address is determined by the server, returning to the requesting the configuration specification.

10. (currently amended) A method for a configuration service, comprising:

receiving a configure service request from a headless device with a device identification associated with the headless device;

initializing a configuration specification of the headless device, if the request

requests to set up an initial configuration specification of the headless device with the configuration service;

updating the configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to update the current configuration specification of the headless device; and

forwarding the configuration specification of the headless device to a routable address received with the request, if the request requests a configuration service.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the initializing ~~comprises~~ includes:

registering the headless device using the device identification;

setting up the initial configuration specification of the headless device; and

storing the initial configuration specification of the headless device as the current configuration specification of the headless device.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the updating ~~comprises~~ includes:

updating the current configuration specification of the headless device to generate an updated configuration specification of the headless device; and

replacing the current configuration specification with the updated configuration specification.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the forwarding ~~comprises~~ includes:

retrieving the configuration specification of the headless device using the device identification; and

sending the configuration specification, retrieved by the retrieving, to the routable

address.

Claims 14 – 16 (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A headless device, comprising:

a communication mechanism for performing communications; and

a self-initiated configuration mechanism for configuring the headless device via a configuration service mechanism through the communication mechanism by sending a configure service request to a configuration service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration specification corresponding to the headless device and receiving the configuration specification from the configuration service mechanism.

18. (currently amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the self-initiated configuration mechanism ~~comprises~~ includes:

a routable address determination mechanism for determining a routable address to where the configuration service mechanism sends the configuration specification of the headless device;

a configuration specification retrieval mechanism for retrieving the configuration specification from the configuration service mechanism using a device identification, associated with the headless device, and the routable address; and

a configuration set up mechanism for configuring the headless device based on the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism.

19. (currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein the routable address determination mechanism ~~comprises~~ includes:

a dynamic host configuration protocol based routable address determination

mechanism for obtaining the routable address from a dynamic host configuration protocol server; and

an alternative routable address selection mechanism for selecting the routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in the ~~self-initiated configuration mechanism~~ alternative routable address storage.

20. (currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein the configuration specification retrieval mechanism ~~comprises~~ includes:

a request initiation mechanism for initiating a request to the configuration service mechanism to retrieve the configuration specification based on the device identification, the request being sent with the device identification and the routable address, to where the retrieved configuration specification is sent; and

a receiver for receiving, after the request is sent, the configuration specification from the configuration service mechanism.

21. (currently amended) The ~~mechanism~~ device according to claim 20, further ~~comprising~~ including:

a time out mechanism for controlling the receiver to receive the configuration specification within a length of time determined according to a time out condition.

22. (currently amended) A configuration service mechanism, comprising:

a ~~registeration~~ registration mechanism for registering a headless device with an initial configuration specification using a device identification corresponding to the headless device;

an on-line configuration mechanism for providing configuration service to a headless device by retrieving and sending, upon a configure service request generated

by the headless device, the configuration specification of a registered headless device to a specified routable address; and

an updating mechanism for facilitating the update of the configuration specification of a registered headless device.

23. (currently amended) The mechanism according to claim 22, further ~~comprising~~ including:

a network communication mechanism for performing communications; and

a configuration specification storage for storing the configuration specification of a headless device, the configuration specification being accessed based on the device identification of the headless device.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for configuring a headless device, the program, when executed, causing[[,]] ~~when executed~~:

sending, by a self-initiated configuration mechanism in a headless device, a configure service request to a configuration service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration specification corresponding to the headless device;

~~returning, by~~ receiving from the configuration service mechanism, the configuration specification to the self-initiated configuration mechanism; and

~~configure~~ configuring, by the self-initiated configuration mechanism, the headless device according to the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism.

25. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 24, wherein the

program further causes, when executed:

receiving, prior to the sending, a request to register the headless device and its corresponding configuration specification using a device identification sent with the request;

recording the device identification of the headless device; and

storing the configuration specification of the headless device.

Claim 26 (cancelled).

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for self-initiated configuration, the program, when executed, causing[[,]] ~~when executed~~:

determining a routable address;

requesting, from a headless device, a configuration service mechanism to retrieve a configuration specification of [[a]] the headless device according to a device identification of the headless device and to send the configuration specification to the routable address;

receiving the configuration specification, retrieved using a device identification and sent from the configuration service mechanism to the routable address; and

configuring the headless device according to the configuration specification.

28. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 27, wherein the determining ~~comprises~~ includes:

requesting~~, if an address of a server, which manages allocation of routable addresses, is stored in the headless device,~~ the routable address from [[the]] a DHCP server; and

selecting, if the address for the server is not ~~stored in the headless device~~ provided from the DHCP server, [[the]] an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in the alternative routable address storage of the headless device.

29. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for a configuration service, the program, when executed, causing[[,]] ~~when executed~~:

receiving a configure service request from a headless device with a device identification associated with the headless device;

initializing a configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to set up an initial configuration specification of the headless device with the configuration service; and

forwarding the configuration specification of the headless device to a routable address received with the request, if the request requests a configuration service.

30. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 29, wherein the program, when executed, [[further]] causes[[,]] ~~when executed~~:

updating the configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to update the current configuration specification of the headless device.